

Margaret Van Sant Mills

December 19, 1998

This tribute came from Trudy Thompson Perkins, shortly after Peggy's death: "When I opened the door to my room that September day freshman year, I was curious and a little apprehensive about whom I would find. 'Margaret Van Sant' was a very imposing name. It was a few days later that Peggy told me how concerned she was to meet 'Gertrude Thompson.' For four years, we roomed together, sharing a variety of college experiences, double-dating, blind dates, exams, papers. Peggy was quiet, purposeful, and steady. She loved studying at Glessies, and when I think of her at MHC, that is where I see her. She was an excellent student and worked very hard, but she was always ready for fun. One spring weekend, we filled the room of someone who was away with crumpled newspapers. It took a good deal more time to uncrumple and get rid of the papers. Peggy was a loyal friend, and we will miss her."

Lois Quick also reminisced about Peggy: "As English majors and bridge-playing smoker inhabitants, Peggy and I became close friends at MHC. Second semester of senior year, Peggy came back to campus in a hot car – a white Impala convertible with red detailing. I remember listening to 'Stand By Me' and other hits on late-night radio during our frequent weekend road trips to Alexandria so she could see her boyfriend Bucky."

"After graduation, Peggy and I shared an apartment in Pittsburgh, she doing social work for the city and I working for Mellon Bank, while Bucky was at Carnegie Tech. They married and had a son (my godson) and daughter. Although we ended up on opposite coasts, we stayed in touch by phone and occasional visits, especially after their son moved to San Francisco."

"As only Peggy could, she announced in her '97 Christmas card the good news that she had quit smoking and the bad news that she had lung cancer. She and Bucky were able to come out for the christening of their first grandchild last summer, but the trip was difficult for her. She died just before Christmas, and I was fortunate to be able to attend her memorial service. Peggy had worked in school administration for years and had always been very active in her church, which was filled to capacity by family and friends for her service."

“Peggy was down to earth, with a sharp wit and wonderful sense of humor. She was one of those people with whom you connected immediately, no matter how long the separation had been. All of us who knew and loved her miss her greatly.”